

**Brown Melanoderma: Biology and Disease of Epidermal Pigmentation.** Edited by Thomas B. Fitzpatrick, Michael M. Wick, and Kiyoshi Toda. University of Tokyo Press, Tokyo, 1987 (227 pp, \$94.50).

This book on brown melanoderma deals with the pathogenesis and treatment of epidermal pigmentation diseases and is the Proceedings of an International Conference on the subject of the title held in Tokyo on June 3 and 4, 1985, sponsored by Shiseido Co., Ltd.

The book is divided into three sections: I. Biology and Physiology of Epidermal Pigmentation, II. Circumscribed Brown Melanoderma, and III. Diffuse Brown Hypermelanosis, containing 18 contributions. This multi-authored book attempts to provide a comprehensive reference volume concentrating the recent knowledge of human epidermal pigmentary disorders, both functional and neoplastic.

Overall, the last two decades have seen two major directions of progress in the understanding of pigmentation: one is the establishment of the mixed pheo- and eu-melanin concept, and the second is the melanosome concept. Although the former is not yet sufficiently reflected in the understanding of clinical pigmentology and the latter is now sufficiently well-documented for research to have moved to pre- and post-melanosomal melanogenesis control, this book may attract and be useful for dermatologists and pigment researchers to obtain a basic overview.

In general, the value of this text rests with its excellent references, which are readily available and as a good sourcebook for all physicians interested in pigmentation.

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**Inflammation: Basic Principles and Clinical Correlates.** Edited by John I. Gallin, M.D., Ira M. Goldstein, M.D., and Ralph Snyderman, M.D. Raven Press, New York, 1988 (995 pp, \$175.00)

This large, well-illustrated, multi-author text was prepared to provide a comprehensive resource book on all aspects of the inflammatory process in health and disease. As stated by the authors in the preface, "It is an advanced text that is designed to be of use to students, fellows and physicians of differing backgrounds, as well as to senior scientists to use as a reference. As such, it should appeal to medical and graduate students and research fellows as well as to primary investigators and clinical subspecialists interested in infectious diseases, rheumatology, dermatology, pathology, and hematology-oncology."

This text is divided into four sections: soluble components of inflammation, cellular components of inflammation, clinical correlates, and pharmacologic modulation of inflammation. The intention to present in detail the humoral and cellular components of inflammation, how they relate to representative clinical diseases, and how they are modified by different drugs is an effective way to relate inflammation to clinical medicine and therapy. Each section contains multiple detailed chapters written by recognized experts in the field. The chapters are lucid, up-to-date, thoroughly referenced, and well illustrated with excellent photomicrographs and extensive charts and tables which provide easy reading for the experienced investigator as well as the non-cognoscenti. The careful summary of complex concepts and interactions in tables and charts is one of the strengths of this book, and will certainly make it useful as a text and as a source of teaching material in medical schools and universities.

For the immunodermatologist, this text provides an important and comprehensive reference on the cellular and humoral effectors of inflammation in man. For those interested in lymphocyte sensitization and activation, there are a number of excellent chapters on lymphocyte development and function, lymphocyte interaction with macrophages, lymphocyte activation and signal transduction, and phagocyte function. However, information on Langerhans cells, lymphocyte circuits and tissue subpopulations (e.g. SALT), control of T- and B-cell activation, and epithelial-lymphocyte interactions is limited. This is understandable because the focus of this text is on the effectors of inflammation and not the details of the control of the immune response (T and B lymphocyte activation) in different organs. Other references that focus on control of lymphocyte activation or specifically on immunodermatology would appropriately complement this volume with respect to inflammation and immunologic diseases of the skin.

The clinical correlates section is appropriately diverse, including infectious and granulomatous disease, neoplasia, vasculitis, and various diseases of the joints, lungs, and skin. The skin diseases discussed are pemphigus and the neutrophilic dermatoses Sweet's Syndrome and pyoderma gangrenosum.

The editors and contributors to this text have accomplished their goals in an admirable fashion, producing a modern reference which clearly presents the components of inflammation, their relationship to selected human diseases, and approaches to pharmacologic treatment. This volume will be a valued addition to personal and institutional libraries.

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